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(6) Madurai—(Nilakottai, Melur and Madurai).

The centres were selected according to the directions given and approved as being areas where there are existing irrigation facilities or assured rainfall and where any additional effort is expected to produce the maximum results in the matter of agricultural production in the shortest time possible.

" (b) No. Not yet, Sir.

" (c) Does not now arise."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" With reference to clause (b) of the question,—' whether the Government have finalised plans for these project areas '—the Hon. Chief Minister replied : No, not yet. May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to start with officers and establishments first before plans for projects are finalised or to finalise plans first and then start having establishments? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" On the surface of it, the hon. Member's question is very reasonable. But even for the formulation of detailed plans, staff is necessary and appointments are necessary. All that could be done has been done, and the staff appointed is quite busy, and it will be possible to give finalised plans after some time is spent by the staff on the plans."

*Government fuel depot, Pudukkottai.*

* 146 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether a Government fuel depot existed in the former Pudukkottai State before merger;

(b) the varieties of fuel sold and the prices at which the fuel was sold;

(c) when the depot was closed and the reasons for such closure;

(d) whether the Pudukkottai Municipal Council offered to take over the functioning of the depot; and

(e) if so, why the offer was rejected?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Yes. Two fuel depots were run by the Government in the former Pudukkottai State before merger.

" (b) Casuarina and jungle wood were sold at these depots, the former at Rs. 13–8–0 and the latter at Rs. 9 per ton. In August 1948 these prices were increased to Rs. 20 per ton for casuarina and Rs. 15 per ton for jungle wood.

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" (c) These depots were closed down on 14th April 1949 for the following reasons :—

(1) Consequent on its merger with the Indian Union, Pudukkottai became a Revenue Division of Tiruchirappalli district from 1st April 1949. It was considered that it was not desirable to continue in a small part of the district alone a special concession which was not enjoyed by the people of the adjoining territories, especially when the firewood depots catered only to the needs of the Government officials in Pudukkottai town and the upper and middle classes of the urban population, who derived full advantage out of these depots.

(2) Moreover, the maintenance of the fuel depots was an extra responsibility on the part of the Government.

(3) Further, it was reported that the price of fuel in the open market was actually less than that fixed in the fuel depots run by the Government and that the mass of the people would not be affected by the closure of the depots.

" (d) & (e) No. The Pudukkottai Municipal Council did not make any offer to take over the two firewood depots. But, the Chairman of the Municipal Council, Pudukkottai, made a request to the Collector of Tiruchirappalli to continue the Government fuel depots and a similar request was also made by one Sri T. R. Vaidyanatha Iyer, an ex-M.L.C. The Collector however, did not consider it necessary to concede the request in view of the reasons stated in the answer to clause (c) above."

*Power supply for Hindupur.*

11-30 a.m. * 147 *Q.*—Sri G. SIVASANKARA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether proposals for the extension of power supply to villages around Hindupur, from Hindupur supply station have been received from the Superintending Engineer, Rayalaseema Power System, Bellary ; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken up the schemes as proposed for construction this year?

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) They will be executed as and when funds become available."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" As we began our sitting only at 10-35 of the clock in the Assembly Chamber I shall extend the question-hour by five minutes, that is, till 11-35."

*Minimum wages for agricultural labourers.*

* 148 [a] *Q.*—Sri P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO :—" ఈ ప్రశ్న చాలా ముఖ్యమైనది కనుక రేపటికి మార్చవలసినదని కోరుతున్నాను."

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[a] Starred question No. 148 postponed for answer on 26th November 1952.